

Thought for the Week Archives

21 mar 2003

Pastor's Blooper: "This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."
--via Rev. Hallack Greider, Anchorage, AK

The captain on the bridge of a large naval vessel saw a light ahead on a collision. He signaled, "Alter your course ten degrees south." The reply came back, "Alter your course ten degrees north."

The captain then signaled, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a captain." The reply: "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am a sea-man third class."

The furious captain signaled, "Alter your course, I am a battleship." The reply: "Alter your course. I am a lighthouse."

"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man (Jesus)... **Matthew 20:25b-27 NIV**

19 mar 2003

With a firm reliance on the protection of the Almighty God, I shall forthwith commence the duties of the high trust to which you have called me. **--James Monroe**

My Enemies will fall back and perish in your presence; you have vindicated me; you have endorsed my work, declaring from your throne that it is good. You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked, blotting out their names forever and ever. O enemies of mine, you are doomed forever. **Psalms 9:3-6**

12 mar 2003

On Ash Wednesday, congregants at Kilbourne (Ohio) United Methodist Church were coming forward for the imposition of ashes on their foreheads. Two-year-old Brenna Wagoner, upset that her mother was not taking her to the altar, was overheard exclaiming: "But I want a tattoo just like Daddy's!"

The church is not a club of saints; it is a hospital for sinners.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to

the law of sin.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. **Rom 7:15-8:1-4 (NIV)**

2 JAN 2003

William J. Murray, son of atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hair and author of *My Life without God*, became a Christian "because he couldn't stand the silences after the sneezes," according to Dean Edward Gaffney of the Valparaiso University Law School.

Among the first glimpses we get of our God is that of a Seeker: "Adam... Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9). In commenting upon this question to his Bible class, a teacher said, "You can never be a preacher if you read it as though God were a policeman. Read it as though God were a brokenhearted Father looking for a lost child!"

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord called to the man, "Where are you?" **Genesis 3:8-9 NIV**

From the bulletin of Peace Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS: "Before the lecture he will be discussing his personal faith struggle in suffering at a potluck supper."

I took my lawn mower blade in to the auto craft shop on post one day to sharpen it. The blade had some huge gouges and nicks in it. I was concerned with the amount of metal that I had to grind off of it in order to sharpen it. But in order to use it again I had to be willing to suffer loss-loss of metal in the grinding process on the grinding wheel. In a similar way, if you want to live a life that is useful in service to God, you must be willing to allow Him to put you on the grindstone of trials and testings so that you will be made sharp through loss.

Though I myself (Paul) have reason for confidence in the flesh also... But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse, In order that I may gain Christ...
Philippians 3:4a, 7-9a RSV

And then there is the mortuary director who sighs all of his correspondence: "Eventually Yours."
--Rev. Joseph LoMusio, Fullerton, CA.

Pride is the only disease known to man that makes everyone sick except the one who has it.

If a man thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

--Galatians 6:3 KJV

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory or defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt

"But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work."

2 Chronicles 15:7

A sign read, "There is no limit to the good that a man can do, if he doesn't care who gets the credit." If you really don't care who gets the credit, then you can just enjoy yourself and do all kinds of good deeds for others. Just be glad it is done, and don't worry who gets the credit on earth, because your heavenly Father knows.

Be careful not to do your "acts of righteousness" before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your father in heaven. **Matthew 6:1 NIV**

You must plug in daily to the only source of power that counts in our lives, and that is the Lord. Strong spiritual beliefs are essential to get through life, but that don't mean we're not going to try to kick the other guy's ass. --"Iron" Mike Ditka, coach of *God's* Football Team, the New Orleans Saints

The ship was sinking fast. The captain called out, "Anyone know how to pray?" One man stepped forward: "I do, Captain." "Good," said the Captain. "You pray. The rest of us will put on life preservers. We're one short."

KINDNESS: One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness, for it is usually returned.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. **Matthew 5:7**
